

CITY COMMISSION

WORK SESSION MINUTES

October 12, 2021

6:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners Chilton, Copeland, O'Neill, and Rue; City Manager Heck; Deputy City Manager Cobbs; Law Director Allen. Commissioner Estrop was absent.

Guests: Charles Patterson and Gracie Hemphill from the Clark County Combined Health District.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS:

The following was discussed at the October 12, 2021, work session:

1. Deputy City Manager Cobbs and Law Director Allen presented information on the enforcement of the Tobacco 21 law that went into effect in Ohio in October 2017 raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco products to 21. A new Codified Ordinance Chapter 1721 is proposed for adoption by the City Commission establishing a license process for all retailers within the city. The goal of the new state law and local enforcement process is to decrease the use of tobacco by young people.

The new chapter will establish a \$150 annual license, appropriate signage, and an enforcement process for violations of illegal distribution. The Clark County Combined Health District will both manage and enforce the program. The program includes an appeal process for denial, suspension, revocation, or violations of licenses.

Mr. Rue thanked Mrs. Chilton for her involvement in the Tobacco Task Force and the Health Department representatives for their work on the program.

Mrs. Chilton asked Health Commissioner Patterson to speak more on the program. Mr. Patterson explained the state law was updated in 2019 but there was no local enforcement in place to deter young people from purchasing tobacco.

Mr. O'Neill asked for clarification the enforcement would be done by the Health Department, not the Police Division. Mr. Patterson confirmed.

Mrs. Allen noted the enforcement of a civil process would not have the criminal enforcement component. She also noted the educational opportunities to assist retailers with compliance.

Mr. O'Neill asked if the regulations pertain to retailers only in the city. Mr. Patterson noted the new ordinance chapter would regulate the program in the city only. A similar program may be established in the City of New Carlisle soon, but Clark County does not have the authority to legislate the same for retailers in unincorporated areas.

Mr. O'Neill inquired how retailers will know about the new requirements, and Ms. Cobbs indicated the Health District will contact all 120+ retailers who sell tobacco products in the city.


2. On motion of Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Rue, the meeting adjourned.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 4, Nays 0.

Adj. 6:57p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill R. Pierce, Clerk of the City Commission